

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3676

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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S E C R E T SINGAPORE 4368

LIMDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KS, KN

SUBJECT: KOREA AT 30TH UNGA

REFS: A) STATE 238347; B) STATE 231038; C) STATE 225930

1. I CALLED AT FOREIGN MINISTRY OCTOBER 8 AS SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS ISSUE OF KOREA AT 30TH UNGA. MEETING WAS WITH PERMSEC CHIA CHEONG FOOK AFTER ALL, SINCE OTHER MATTER WHICH HAD DIVERTED HIS ATTENTION (SKYJACK INCIDENT IN PHILIPPINES) HAD BEEN SETTLED. CHIA IS THIRD-RANKING MEMBER OF FOREIGN MINISTRY HEIRARCHY.

2. I WENT OVER GROUNDWORK OF U.S. POSITION STEP BY STEP AS OUTLINED IN REFTELS, STRESSING URGENT IMPORTANCE U.S. ATTACHED TO KOREAN ISSUE. I EXPRESSED HOPE THAT GOS COULD REVERSE LAST YEAR'S VOTING POSITION AND SUPPORT OUR OWN RESOLUTION AND ALSO URGED GOS SUPPORT FOR US ON PROCEDURAL MATTERS AND AGAINST HOSTILE RESOLUTION.

3. BY WAY OF ADDITIONAL EXPLANATION, I NOTED HOSTILE RESOLUTION'S
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REJECTION OF ROK ROLE AND ABSENCE IN IT OF ANY PROPOSAL FOR

MECHANISM TO REPLACE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT, AND CALLED ATTENTION TO INCOMPATIBILITY OF RESOLUTION'S DENIAL OF ROK'S EXISTENCE TO FACT THAT SINGAPORE ITSELF HAD RECENTLY ESTABLISHED RELATIONS WITH ROK AT DIPLOMATIC LEVEL. I FURTHER NOTED ANTI-U.S. NATURE OF NORTH KOREAN RESOLUTION WITH RESPECT TO TERMINATION OF UN COMMAND AND WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN FORCES.

4. IN ORDER TO UNDERScore SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH U.S. VIEWS KOREAN ITEM, I THOUGHT IT DESIRABLE TO CONVEY TO GOS OUR CONCERNS OVER ASEAN DRAFT RESOLUTION (STATE 236888). I STRESSED ITS UNACCEPTABILITY TO US BECAUSE OF WAY IT IS WEIGHTED IN FAVOR OF NORTH KOREAN RESOLUTION, PARTICULARLY ON LANGUAGE REGARDING TERMINATION OF UNC AND WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN FORCES WHICH IS WORD FOR WORD FROM THE NORTH KOREAN RESOLUTION. I CONCLUDED BY EXPRESSING HOPE THAT ASEAN NATIONS WOULD DEFER CONSIDERATION OF ANY SUCH INITIATIVE UNTIL WE HAD HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO SURFACE OUR OWN AMENDED RESOLUTION AND SECURE SUPPORT FOR IT.

5. CHIA CHEONG FOOK LISTENED ATTENTIVELY. NOTE TAKER WAS ALSO PRESENT WHO TOOK DOWN MY PRESENTATION VERBATIM. CHIA COMMENTED THAT KOREAN ISSUE WAS "DIFFICULT" FOR GOS, BUT PROMISED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER OUR POSITION CAREFULLY. HE RAISED NO OBJECTIONS TO MATTER OF DEFERRAL OF FURTHER ASEAN MOVES WITH RESPECT TO DRAFT ASEAN RESOLUTION PENDING FURTHER U.S. EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF OUR AMENDED RESOLUTION. I TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO REMARK THAT NORTH KOREAN RESOLUTION WAS NOT DESIGNED TO BRING PEACE TO KOREAN PENINSULA, BUT RATHER REPRESENTED TYPE OF COLD WAR-MOTIVATED RHETORIC AGAINST WHICH GOS FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM HAD SPOKEN SO ELOQUENTLY IN HIS RECENT UNGA SPEECH.

6. COMMENT: I BELIEVE YOUR AND SECRETARY'S CONVERSATIONS AT NEW YORK WITH RAJARATNAM AND KOH COMBINED WITH MY REPRESENTATIONS HERE HAVE CERTAINLY CAUSED SINGAPOREANS TO WEIGH CAREFULLY THEIR POLICY REGARDING KOREAN ITEM IN 30TH UNGA. IF WE CAN INDUCE OTHER ASEAN MEMBER STATES, PERHAPS STARTING WITH INDONESIA, TO MOVE TOWARD SUPPORT OF U.S. POSITION, I BELIEVE THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE SINGAPORE WILL FOLLOW SUIT.
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